



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Environmental Protection: Mississippi River, Conway Lake, Lansing, Iowa



Conway Lake (upper left) in Big Lake area on the Mississippi River

Contact

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Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program (EMP), Conway Lake is an isolated 130-acre isolated backwater lake in pool 9 located about three miles upstream of Lansing, Iowa. Phillipi Lake is a 330-acre backwater located southeast of Conway Lake and Shore Slough is a 100-acre slough lying just south of Conway Lake, between Phillipi Lake and the Iowa mainland. The areas lie within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Conway Lake is relatively shallow with abundant aquatic vegetation. Dissolved oxygen depletion is a problem in the lake during both summer and winter. Water is entering Phillipi Lake from Middle Slough through openings that are eroding larger. This allows excessive flow into Phillipi Lake during the winter, creating unsuitable habitat conditions for overwintering backwater fish species. Shore Slough has less than optimal fish habitat conditions due to sedimentation and the high flows passing into the slough from Phillipi Lake. Introduction of flow from a small creek is being considered as a method of improving dissolved oxygen levels in Conway Lake. Restriction of flow from Middle Slough would improve winter habitat conditions in both Phillipi Lake and Shore Slough. Dredging is being considered to enhance habitat conditions for all three water bodies. The dredged material could be used to construct islands in Lansing Big Lake to the east of the project area.

Status

General design for the project began in 2001. A Definite Project Report is scheduled to be available in 2002.

Authority

The Conway Lake Habitat Project is being planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program (EMP). The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, and reauthorized by WRDA 1999.

The project will be planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Iowa and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs would be 100 percent federal because the project is located on national wildlife refuge lands. Operation and maintenance costs would be 100 percent federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal cost	\$2,460,000
Non-federal cost	\$0
Total estimated cost	\$2,460,000